

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A medical device comprising:
a body;
a lumen extending from a first lumen opening formed in the body to a second lumen opening formed in the body, the lumen adapted to receive a length of suture; and
a first needle guide channel extending from a first needle guide channel opening formed in the body to a second needle guide channel opening formed in the body;
wherein the medical device is lumen and the first needle guide channel are configured in operative relation with each other such that when the medical device is used during a medical procedure on a patient, a needle that is backloaded into the first needle guide channel will be advanced out of the first needle guide channel by pulling on a length of suture that is connected to the needle and threaded through the lumen.
2. (original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the first needle guide channel is arcuate shaped.
3. (original) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a handle coupled to the body.
4. (original) The medical device of claim 3, wherein the handle is coupled to the body by a connector piece.
5. (original) The medical device of claim 4, wherein the connector piece is bendable such that it can be fixed in a variety of positions.

6. (original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein a portion of the body is tapered.
7. (original) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising:
one or more additional needle guide channels, each extending from its own first needle
guide channel opening formed in the body to its own second needle guide channel
opening formed in the body;
wherein each of the one or more additional needle guide channels is configured in
operative relation with the lumen such that a needle that is backloaded into any of
the one or more additional needle guide channels will be advanced out of the
additional needle guide channel by pulling on a length of suture that is connected
to the needle and threaded through the lumen.
8. (original) The medical device of claim 7, wherein one of the one or more additional
needle guide channels are arcuate shaped.
9. (original) The medical device of claim 7, wherein each of the one or more additional
needle guide channels and the first needle guide channel is arcuate shaped.
10. (original) The medical device of claim 7, wherein the first needle guide channel and each
of the one or more additional needle guide channels are circumferentially positioned around the
body.
11. (original) The medical device of claim 10, wherein the first needle guide channel and
each of the one or more additional needle guide channels are equidistant from each other.
- 12-30. (canceled)
31. (currently amended) A medical device comprising:
a body;

a lumen extending from a first lumen opening formed in the body to a second lumen opening formed in the body, the lumen adapted to receive a length of suture; and a first needle guide channel extending from a first needle guide channel opening formed in the body;

wherein the medical device is ~~lumen and first needle guide channel are~~ configured in ~~operative relation with each other~~ such that when the medical device is used during a medical procedure on a patient, a length of suture is threaded through the lumen and is connected to a needle that is backloaded into the first needle guide channel, and the length of suture is pulled in a first direction, the needle is advanced out of the needle guide channel in a second direction, ~~wherein~~ the first direction ~~has~~ having a positive longitudinal component and the second direction ~~has~~ having a negative longitudinal component.

32. (original) The medical device of claim 31, wherein the first needle guide channel is arcuate shaped.
33. (original) The medical device of claim 31, further comprising a handle coupled to the body.
34. (original) The medical device of claim 33, wherein the handle is coupled to the body by a connector piece.
35. (original) The medical device of claim 34, wherein the connector piece is bendable such that it can be fixed in a variety of positions.
36. (original) The medical device of claim 31, wherein a portion of the body is tapered.
37. (original) The medical device of claim 31, further comprising:

one or more additional needle guide channels, each extending from its own first needle guide channel opening formed in the body;

wherein the lumen and each of the one or more additional needle guide channels are configured in operative relation with each other such that when a length of suture is threaded through the lumen and is connected to a needle that is backloaded into one of the one or more additional needle guide channels, and the length of suture is pulled in a first additional direction, the needle is advanced out of the additional needle guide channel in a second additional direction, ~~wherein~~ the first additional direction has having a positive longitudinal component and the second additional direction has having a negative longitudinal component.

38. (original) The medical device of claim 37, wherein one of the one or more additional needle guide channels is arcuate shaped.

39. (original) The medical device of claim 37, wherein each of the one or more additional needle guide channels and the first needle guide channel are arcuate shaped.

40. (original) The medical device of claim 37, wherein the first needle guide channel and each of the one or more additional needle guide channels are circumferentially positioned around the body.

41. (original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the first needle guide channel and each of the one or more additional needle guide channels are equidistant from each other.

42-63. (canceled)